

EXHIBIT 8
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HB 759

House Bill 759
February 22, 2007
Presented by Jeff Hagener
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Jeff Hagener, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

Under current law, 25 cents of the cost of each conservation license sold by FWP is collected as a surcharge and used by counties for search and rescue missions involving hunters, anglers, and trappers. Counties are required to submit their requests for reimbursement to the Disaster and Emergency Services Division of the Department of Military Affairs. Any balance remaining in the fund two years following its deposit is transferred to the general license account of FWP.

This legislation will broaden the scope of the law to include local search and rescue units as well as county search and rescue units and remove the transfer requirement for remaining balances in the account. FWP believes these changes will make more dollars available to reimburse search and rescue units for their costs.